



Chesapeake Bay Program Office
410 Severn Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

Chesapeake Bay Program Management Board Members-

Attached please find the final draft "Strengthening Verification of Best Management Practices Implemented in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: A Basinwide Framework." This framework document has been developed through the efforts of literally hundreds of colleagues from across the Bay watershed as well as Panel members drawn from around the country. The complete set of supporting documentation (Appendices A-U) are available under the "Projects & Resources" tab of the BMP Verification Committee's webpage:

http://www.chesapeakebay.net/groups/group/best_management_practices_bmp_verification_committee

Since it was convened in March 2012, the Bay Program partner's BMP Verification Committee has had the responsibility for developing the basinwide BMP verification framework, ensuring partners and stakeholders bought into a transparent, robust system for ensuring implemented nutrient and sediment reduction practices were in place and functioning. After working for the past two years with numerous technical workgroups, several goal implementation teams, and all three advisory committee, the Committee offers this basinwide framework as the path forward for the partners.

Based on a charge approved by the Principals' Staff Committee and a membership approved by the Management Board, 13 individuals with diverse backgrounds and expertise were drawn together in September 2012 to provide an independent perspective on what it means to verify BMP implementation. Starting with the draft BMP verification principles, the Panel has provided detailed input and direction over the past two years on the entire framework with particular focus on the six technical workgroups' BMP verification guidance. The Panel recommends the Management Board and Principals' Staff Committee adopt and immediately begin implementation of this basinwide framework.

At the Management Board's September 11 meeting, we will jointly present the basinwide BMP verification framework and the recommended schedule and path forward for Panel review and EPA approval of the jurisdictions' revised BMP tracking, verification, and reporting programs. We will recommend and ask for the Management Board's approval to submit this final draft basinwide BMP verification framework to the Principals' Staff Committee for their review and approval on behalf of the larger partnership at their scheduled September 22 meeting.

Sincerely,

Rich Batiuk, Chair
CBP BMP Verification Committee

Dana York, Chair
CBP BMP Verification Review Panel